In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating a protein kinase C (PKC) activity in a cardiovascular tissue ~~other than monocytes~~ of a subject, the method comprising:

DETERMINING evaluating the level of the PKC activity in monocytes of the subject,

the level of PKC activity in the monocytes being correlated to the level of PKC activity in the cardiovascular tissue ~~other than monocytes~~.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PKC activity is PKC β activity.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the cardiovascular tissue is retinal, kidney or aorta vascular tissue or heart.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

Claims 7-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating a subject for the extent, stage, or severity, of a ~~PKC related disorder~~ cardiovascular complication of diabetes, the method comprising:

evaluating the level of PKC activity in monocytes of the subject; and

optionally comparing the level of the PKC activity in monocytes of the subject with a standard,

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the level of PKC activity being correlated with the extent, stage, or severity, of the ~~PKC related disorder~~ cardiovascular complication of diabetes.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is diabetic retinopathy ~~disorder is diabetes~~.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is diabetic nephropathy ~~disorder is a cardiovascular disorder~~.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is ~~disorder is diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, microalbumiuria, proteinuria, renal failure,~~ hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary artery spasm, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, arrhythmias, and cardiomyopathy.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the PKC activity is PKC β activity.

Claim 21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

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Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating the effect of a treatment for a ~~PKC related disorder~~ cardiovascular complication of diabetes on a subject comprising:

administering a treatment for a cardiovascular complication of diabetes ~~PKC related disorder~~ to a subject; and

evaluating the level of a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject, thereby evaluating the effect of the treatment.

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Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~disorder is diabetes~~ complication is diabetic retinopathy.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~disorder is a cardiovascular disorder~~ complication is diabetic nephropathy.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the disorder is ~~diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, proliferative diabetic~~

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~disorder is diabetes~~ complication is diabetic retinopathy.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~disorder is a cardiovascular disorder~~ complication is diabetic nephropathy.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the disorder is ~~diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, microalbumiuria, proteinuria, renal failure,~~ hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary artery spasm, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, arrhythmias, or cardiomyopathy.

Claim 27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the PKC activity is PKC β activity.

Claim 28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a compound for ~~the~~ TREATING treatment of a ~~PKC-related disorder~~ cardiovascular complication of diabetes in a subject, the method comprising:

administering a test compound for the treatment of the ~~disorder~~ complication to the subject; ~~and~~

evaluating a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject, and

~~the level of PKC activity being correlated with the effect of the treatment on the disorder~~

selecting a compound if it reduces the monocyte PKC activity in the subject;

thereby identifying a compound.

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Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~disorder is diabetes~~ complication is diabetic retinopathy.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~disorder is diabetes~~ complication is diabetic nephropathy.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the complication is ~~PKC related disorder is diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, microalbumiuria, proteinuria, renal failure,~~ hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary artery spasm, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, arrhythmias, or cardiomyopathy.

Claim 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the PKC activity is PKC β activity.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

optionally identifying a subject in need of a treatment for the ~~disorder~~ complication;

~~optionally evaluating a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject~~; and

comparing the PKC activity before the administration of the test compound to the PKC activity after administration of the test compound,

wherein a compound for the treatment of the ~~disorder~~ complication is identified when the PKC activity after the administration of the compound is altered compared to ~~a standard~~ the PKC activity before the administration.

Claim 36. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the subject is a human.

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Claim 37. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

RESTRICT

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a compound for the treatment of aging ~~or an aging-related disorder~~ in a subject, the method comprising:

administering a test compound for the treatment of aging ~~or an aging-related disorder~~ to the subject; ~~and~~

evaluating a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject, and

~~the level of PKC activity being correlated with the effect of the treatment on the disorder~~

selecting a compound if it increases the monocyte PKC activity in the subject,

thereby identifying a compound for the treatment of aging.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating the effect of a treatment for aging ~~or an aging-related disorder~~ on a subject comprising:

administering a treatment for aging ~~or an aging-related disorder~~ to a subject; and

evaluating the level of a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject, thereby evaluating the effect of the treatment.

RESTRICT

Claim 40. (New) A method of evaluating the relative age of a subject, the method comprising evaluating the level of a PKC activity in monocytes of the subject, the level of PKC activity being inversely correlated to the relative age of the subject.

Claim 41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the PKC activity is PKC β activity.

Claim 42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

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